

CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

The present OLD YEAR, feeling that he has worked extremely hard and extremely well for twelve long months; and being gratified in believing that he has earned the right to be looked upon with considerable respect for ages to come, intends to honor the time-hallowed custom of inviting all the sons of humanity to a grand Christmas entertainment. This entertainment will be conducted upon "the most liberal and extensive scale." There will be feasting and music and gladness, joyful greetings and kind words, smiling faces and merry hearts. And we shall all say good-bye to the old fellow with cheery goodwill, much gratitude and great hope. And how much have we to be grateful for! A storm of war has swept over the land such as the world never saw, yet the nation lives. Treason, Rebellion, violence, have done their worst, yet the nation lives. Lives to honor, will live to reward her brave sons. Lives a wonder, an example, and a Power second to none upon the earth. So let us rejoice and be exceeding glad.

But gratitude is barren without good deeds to bear it witness. What good deeds of bravery, self sacrifice, true generosity have been done, and by whom, we all know. What pleasant memories we may link with the recollections of this Christmas time none need be told. Let the memory of kind actions, of gifts bestowed, of homes made happier, at this merry season be with us ever green.

In offering our annual greeting to those who favor us with their advertisements, we add that the names of those establishments by whose aid the good intentions of our readers in the way of Christmas presents may be best realized will be found in our advertising columns from day to day. Everything appropriate to the season, and its good offices, everything useful, beautiful and good that good and kind people give each other, will be found therein. The only difficulty is how to choose where so much is offered. Let us briefly mention some of the chief articles that may appropriately form our offerings of friendship, or of love.

Next in importance to having a home is seeing that it will be stocked with

FURNITURE.

Numerous merchants not only offer their aid toward the glorious achievement of giving some nice article of furniture as a Christmas present, but will furnish your whole house from top to bottom if you wish—yes, from the garret where your Sarasota trunk rests awhile down to where the coals are kept, will fill it with all manner of elegances and comforts—

"The carpets laid and everything in order!"

the rosewood and damask "dainty bower" ready for your seat; the polished mahogany ready for your delectations and dessert; your drawing room hung

With tapestries that make its walls divine

In never ending vistas of delight

and in fact anything, air or madam, you may please to want.

Your apartments being complete and filled with a joyful Christmas crowd, there will be wanted among other pretty gifts some

JEWELRY AND SILVER WARE.

No more graceful homage can be paid to those whom we would honor than a gift of jewelry. And for this purpose there never was a more gorgeous display of glittering wealth than may now be seen in the stores of our city. The mind's eye is dazzled as we think of them. From the plain gold circle which records the second great era in the life of man to the diamond tiara which blazes upon beauty's brow, from the spoon of infancy to the substantial glories of the family plate, from the breast-plate of ambitious youth to the graven testimonial which the well-deserving receive with blushing pride, all that is elegant or useful in the way of gold and silver and precious stones, can be had at the jewelry caskets named in our columns.

Of course every one who visits or stays at home—those who do neither forming a minority of no consequence—will see to his or her

DRY GOODS.

Though one poet speaks of the charming half of the creation as when unadorned adorned the most, the adorning other half knows how to bow down

When awful Beauty puts on all her charms,

which is just as true as it has been ever since the world began, and of course the ladies know this as well as we can tell them, and have far from neglected the costly dresses offered for their inspection. The stock of goods now displayed on the counters of our chief stores is unusually varied even for this season, and while the most fastidious taste can be gratified, requirements of families whose means must be the measure of their dealings have been carefully studied.

Having seen that we are well lodged and clothed, let us see to it that we are in our right mind.

His soul to knowledge, steals the key of heaven.

BOOKS.

The present season offers great store of reading for all tastes; and in spite of the murrain of war over the length and breadth of the land, the study and the press have poured forth their treasures abundantly. Our advertisers display their choicest stores for selections by enthusiastic purchasers; and what more excellent presents can such buy for their friends? There are also

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS.

It wouldn't have been so bad for Robinson Crusoe if he could have sent out his man Friday for the dullest, weeklies, and monthlies of the million-fold press. But he couldn't, so he left by the first ship. We are more lucky, for we have a periodical literature to which the best talent of the day contributes its richest stores. Those which will form pleasant companionship, may be found on reference.

ART GIFTS.

The influence of art upon the refinements of the social life is too well understood to need argument. The gift of a picture, or statuette, or vase, or any worthy artistic object confers a lasting source of pleasure. The various stores will repay a visit, offering, as they do, the choicest treasures of these for selection. We must not forget an early visit to

THE TOY SHOP.

Region of glories unspeakable! See to it that the little ones laugh, shout, scream, roll on the ground with joy when they see your presents. Our word for it you will feel very happy when they climb all over you and thank you with thousands of kisses. The joy over your benefactors of their race will show you how to obtain the prettiest and the best.

READY-MADE GARMENTS.

Served, like oysters, in every style, are much in request this week, and such is the certainty with which cut and fit are now regulated, that the artist who builds your coat on your back can show no better architecture than he who bids you an impromptu welcome to the interior. How pleasant to take a friend by the arm and introduce him to one of the emporia whose names have been published—the intelligent and generous reader will at once complete the allusion.

STATIONERY AND GOLD PENS.

Good paper, good pens, good ink are essential to comfort at the desk. Many choice gifts may be made of them. A well assorted package of stationery is always welcome, and especially to our friends in the field, while a Morton gold pen is a property in itself, and forms a very appropriate and useful Christmas present to all who write for profit or for pleasure.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The houses advertised will provide you with boots, shoes, slippers, and every other aid to good standing in society.

SEWING MACHINES.

have done so much to lighten the toil of women who live by the needle, and is so chery a companion in households without number, that the very name is suggestive of blessings, and comment is superfluous. But as a sewing machine is now universally recognized as an appropriate Christmas gift from husband, father, brother, lover, or friend, we call attention to the makers named as of service in pointing out where the best are to be obtained.

SKATES.

Everybody that can should learn to skate. The exercise is most invigorating, the sensation most hilarious, and the amusement is fashionable. Go and buy these skates, reader, for thy friend of either sex; buy another pair for thyself, for thy children, if thou hast them, and skate early and often. But buy good skates, pretty skates, in short, buy skates of the dealers whose cards are in our columns.

HATS.

Brumley, or his "fat friend," said that a good hat bespoke the gentleman. Cervantes most successfully piled ridicule upon the crazed pate of his hero when he crowned him with the barber's basin. "A shocking bad hat" is pursued by the opprobrium of all creation, while a "ready title"—but the contemplation of ugliness is painful to the fastidious mind. We will say, however, that if some people could hear what other people say of their looks—all owing to the fearful horrors of their headgear—said some people would accidentally lose said gear without waiting for a gale of wind, and on purpose feel themselves, after a visit to the proper place, looking like Christians and men. One word more. A new generation is growing up. Let it be crowned with honor and—a respectable hat.

DRUGS AND THE TOILET TABLE.

As mankind is apt to become dyspeptic about a week hence, the apothecary may be classed among our most Christmas friends. It is, however, important that the drugs we may have to use are from known and skilled hands. The best of our drug-stores have not only all that we need for the renovation of deranged digestion, but with commendable good taste furnish us with toilet appliances for the adornment of the outward man, and are replete of odors which console the disconsolate seeker after pills, powders, and other such.

CHINA, GLASSWARE AND FANCY GOODS.

The festive season is peculiarly appropriate for the display of the sparkling and elegant dinner, breakfast and tea services which are now produced in such rare taste and beauty. A host of articles of the most graceful forms and excellent material can be found at our chief glass and china stores. The varied display of fancy goods which find a proper place on drawing-room table or mantel, or are scattered in elegant confusion around the boudoir, invite selection also.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

What pleasant memories they bring. In one small gold-clasped album we can have the features of all we hold dear to us perpetually, and right now, when Merry Christmas is close by, is the time to exchange such. Said the poet

What would you do, Love, if I were going

With white sails flowing, the seas beyond?

Says the practical man, go at once to a photographer and have your likeness taken. Say we, not the least pleasant little party we ever saw was one at which a young lady (rising six) invited the photographs of her little friends to imitate fragrant peeks from hilltop crannies.

Among the delights of Christmas and all other times, those of

MUSIC.

"The tender child of sweet times,"

The gentle voice of all lands and climes;

Who by his voice man's cruel soul can bless,

Lulls the lone soul to peaceful slumber.

claim our reverence and regard. We verily believe that half the troubles in the world are begotten of idleness. See how well employed is the musical family. Round the piano are clustered happy faces, lit up with joy by their glorious harmony wedded to immortal song. Brothers and sisters are bound together by melodies, and can wander hand in hand through the gorgeous and ever varied world of enchanting sounds, created at the fireside at home. At the various stores can be found every known producer of that crusty old Dr. Johnson called the least disagreeable of sounds—the organ, king of instruments, the queen piano, the harp, the violin, the melodious horn, the bombastic trombone, shrill, ear-piercing fife, the spirit-stirring drum, with all the crowd of straight and curly, short and long, fat and thin creations, whose voices speak so noble and mysterious a language—can be found.

FURS.

He that would back in beauty's smiles must straightway hasten—not a word of it beforehand—and invest greenbacks, in the gorgeous sable, the snowy Ermine, the delicate Mink, and then make a present to a very dear somebody. Great shall be his reward.

The fur stores offer the greatest hospitality to all comers, and the smiling attendants evidently feel the pleasure which those enjoy who are able to facilitate a good action. And that good action may be performed at any of the establishments advertised in THE TRIBUNE.

CONFECTIONERY.

Christmas trees and Christmas tables will need the sweet ornamentation of candied wonders. The perfection with which these are formed is combined with all the pleasant flavors that human palate can experience; and in our admiration we demolish them with one sigh for their broken glories, and another of ecstatic delight at their exceeding deliciousness. Any one who would see a world of sweets, in the prettiest, funniest, oddest forms, should call at the candy store.

GROCERIES.

As no Christmas dinner can be completed, or even attempted, without the rich stores offered by the grocer, the selection of an establishment where our sensibilities will not be shocked by inferior articles, is of the last importance. The intended purchaser may safely furnish forth his magazine of good things of the respectable houses mentioned under the proper heading.

POULTRY AND PRODUCE.

Plenty of Housekeepers keep a tender turkey when they see him, can detect subtle strings in the anatomy of a chicken, repudiate a goose whose legs are like leather boots, and govern themselves accordingly. So of other articles—game, eggs, butter, cheese, smoked meats, dried fish and all the various items of produce and poultry. But their chief dependence will always be upon the merchant with whom they deal, and they will be dealt with honorably by the houses elsewhere named.

FINALLY.

Having thus named most of the classes of business whose peculiar province it is to supply us with the gifts of the season and materials for its merry makings, we have but one word more. To both readers and advertisers we wish the good old wish that they may enjoy a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. And to the aspirer be added with our whole heart the benediction of Tiny Tim—God bless us all, every one!

PORTRAIT OF ADMIRAL FAIRBAGT.—George E. Perrine, Court-st., has just finished a portrait of Admiral Fairbagnet, engraved on steel, from an Imperial photograph. The engraving was presented to the Admiral last evening, at the New-England dinner at the Astor House, and was pronounced by him and his friends a very excellent likeness and an admirable picture.

SKATING YESTERDAY.—The sudden cold weather of yesterday made excellent skating at the Central Park Lake, and the other ponds were in excellent condition. Numbers were amusing themselves in this favorite pastime. The fine skating will probably continue to-day, and for some time to come. There is also fine sleighing in the city as well as country, several of the omnibus lines having already brought out their sleighs on runners.

THE WEED-OPDYKE LITIGATION.

Class of Defendant's Testimony.

SUPREME COURT—Dec. 22.

The cross-examination of William C. Churchill, Samuel Churchill, sworn—Examined by Defendant's Counsel.

Q. State the Government contracts you had, that Mr. Opdyke at any time became connected with, or had anything to do with? A. In the Spring of 1862 I had a contract with the Government for the manufacture of 10,000 pairs of blue cloth; it was made with Quartermaster Crossman, at Philadelphia, that was the only contract I had in which Mr. Opdyke was concerned; when I sold that contract to Mr. Opdyke I sold the same to him for \$100,000, and he had 12,000 pairs of the same kind; when my brother and I took the contract for 10,000 coats we designed filling them ourselves; but my brother communicated to me that he could not do the goods the contract required, and he wanted me to do them; I told him that I could not do them, and he would not buy the goods of Mr. Opdyke at a price that would answer our purpose; I went to Mr. Opdyke and negotiated the sale of the contract directly to him.

Q. Why did you sell your contract to Mr. Opdyke? (Objected to.) There was no allegation in the bill that Mr. Opdyke had all the cloth.

Q. What was the sale, and agreement with Mr. Opdyke? A. I sold him the contract, or caused the contract to be assigned to Mr. Opdyke, for which he was to pay me a consideration of one shilling a coat on the 10,000; on the other 12,000 coats he was to pay the same price; I received from Mr. Opdyke a written acknowledgment to pay me the money, and a receipt for the cloth; my brother told me that he had sold the claim from me, and paid me for my interest.

Q. Do you know whether Mr. Opdyke carried out these two contracts with the Government? A. To the best of my knowledge, yes; I heard of it, and I heard that the contract was filled to the Government; the delivery was made in Philadelphia; I had nothing to do with the completion of the contract.

Q. Do you know about any other contract that Mr. Opdyke had with the Government? A. No, sir, nothing at all.

Cross-examined.—Q. You say the cloth to be used for filling these two contracts with the Government could not be found in the market. Did you see it in the market? A. Yes, I saw it in the market, but I did not buy it.

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